(ROSBY S. NOYES...... Editor. THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined cir-culation of the other Washington dallies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

count of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Depart-ments, according to tenor or purpose.

The Transvant and Silver.

aggressive of the silver leaders, and advocate of Mr. Bryan's renomination, edieves that the suspension of the gold out-of in South Africa will work in silver's in-

The level the Transvari war will be a mighty influence in the campaign of next year in this country, and that the object son will convince the people of this country that it is not safe to place on gold the outlier burden of the monetary volume of

If this is the correct view to take of that motter, what do Mr. Suizer and other silver mong the democrats mean by trying bring the war to an immediate close the intervention of the United undistanted, and wish them a pro-

connect the passage he gold standard bill by the House with there in Wall street for the reason a full year. It was freely asserted Fifty-sixth Congress when it met such a measure. The very erms of the House bill had been known for itut will Mr. Dubois say that had of Isas there would have been no in month after the election red manufacturers would not have te-tran taking in sail at once. We Dulsois will find out that he cauno Transvaal for wheat in ilhe maintenance of the gold standard does of depend upon the yield of the mines of

The Lawton Fund.

toy particular part of the globe

The rapid growth of the fund now being ome purchased by the late Gen. Lawton noticates how sincerely the people of this ountry appreciate the military services of n in the field. Gen. Lawton died omparatively poor, having saved little from his salary as an officer of the army, and burdening his estate with a debt which n the natural course of time, he would probably have been able to pay if spared, has giving his family a comfortable resi-But this condition is inevitable in of a man who devotes himself with all his energy and time to his profes ion us a soldier, and it is in the highest eense complimentary to Gen. Lawton's mory that he was without a fortune when he fell among his men in battle. 'rom all classes of citizens the contribu ions are being received, showing that this ad blow has been felt in every grade of celety. There is no thought of Little emericanism in this enterprise. The people lead of sacrifices and are willing to care berally for the widows and children of the there and men who may fall. There is no taint of reluctance in the giving, such as might be suggested by qualms of conscience ver the cause in which Gen. Lawton died. It is good citizenship to afford such a demonstration of patriotism by insuring the future comfort of those who have been deprived of their protectors and providers sigh the country's necessities.

No Condonement.

Convicted of violating the oleomargarine laws in the most flagrant manner and compelled to serve the sentences justly meted ut to them, after every legal resort, inlading the United States Supreme Court, and been appealed to in vain, Joseph Wilkins and Howard Butler are now pleading for pardon from the President of the United States. The men themselves are, t is well understood, only the instruments of a tremendous agency for imposition apon the public, which is represented by the combination that manufactures olcomargarine and disposes of the greater portion of it by representing it to be genuine satter and receiving for it the prices that the real article commands. So far as Wilkins is concerned the Attorney General, who has the application under considera-tion as the legal advisor of the administration, may secure full evidence of his long areer as an oleomargarine law violator by alling for the records of the internal revaus bureau. There may be some merit in Cutter's case because he was merely a tool
of his employer, but the pardon of Wilkins sould be an assault on justice. Executive lemency was never meant to be extended o old and persistent offenders, and in case is granted to the chief offender in this worth the paper they are written on.

If matters in South Africa continue to grow more complicated the Prince of Wales may be tempted to pack up a few rounds of ammunition and settle the difficulty him-

Reformed Criminals. It is reported that a noted bank burglar, econtly released from a New York prison, termined henceforth to lead an honest life, having retired to a home prepared for him by his daughter. He is said to be well supplied with money, the source of which may be easily surmised. While it is to be hoped that he will prevail in his good and refrain henceforth from the boting of banks or the violation of the laws operty and order, his example will not efford much encouragement to those studiminution of the crime percentage. It is believed that a large factor in inducing the mmission of crimes is the fact that the toun who leaves a prison starts life afresh with a heavy handicap. He is marked as one not to be trusted. He seeks honestly for work for a time, only to be rebuffed by hose employers who demand a "character" from the last employer. He may have barned a good trade in prison, but he often ands the doors of the shops closed against

the temptings of former associates in crime, t is an easy and even natural step for him to return to his old haunts and ways. His recent experience has taught him that it is really easier to live by theft in one form or another than by honest labor. In any vent, chances for theft are more readily ound than chances to work decently. And so, in so many cases that the reformers are lismayed, he slips back into crime and the difficult to propose a precise remedy for such conditions. Taking human nature in all of its phases into account, it is natural has never sinned to the man who comes fresh from a just punishment. It is en'y fair to the honest workingman to give him is a difficult adjustment. It is unjust to say that the released criminal's difficulty in finding work is part of his punishment The state has no right to extend its penalties thus far, and society endangers itself when it adds its punishment to that of the Much good can perhaps be done COURT. through the agency of a clearing house between the decent laborers and those repentent criminals who are willing to labor. Such an agency is afforded by some of the prison reform organizations and the similar institutions which have in recent years been doing excellent work in several large cities. These efforts are stimulated by the belief that every released convict who is returned to honest paths is not only an addition to the ranks of useful workers and producers, but a check upon the development of the criminal class. This becomes one of the most interesting and important phases of the industrial question as condi-The sooner the war is brought to tions tend toward the growth of cities and secure the South African gold the evolution of a compact society of evilcase suggests this line of thought, is in I id by the wor, and if the happiness and certain sense an encouragement, although manked depend upon the re- he is a rare exception to the rule, and it is not altogether a pleasant reflection that he is enabled to live comfortably and "honestly" for the remainder of his life by means of the spoils of his crimes. There is far more credit in the struggle of the penniless convict who emerges from prison homeless and helpless and by virtue of "It may be interesting to observe that a partial in New York was simultaneous the house gold in New York was simultaneous to the pursage of the House gold standal bill. New, if a manic had followed the assage of a silver free entings bill, the lassage of the land would the attributed it to the passage of the A Busy Year for Mr. Bryan.

A Eusy Year for Mr. Bryan.

If Mr. Bryan keeps all the engagements that are being made for him he will be the busiest man in America next year. He would appear to have been preparing for such an experience. Since the November lections he has been enjoying himself in the hunting fields of Missouri and Texas. accompanied by personal friends and political lieutenants, and two months' time so employed has probably proved very rest-The end of the holiday approaches, and the whole country will again be before him. But that he will endeavor to meet the wishes of as many of his friends as possible in resuming his travels is easily to be ex

The friends of Mr. Blackburn are hoping see Mr. Bryan in Kentucky at the time the legislature ballots for United States senator. This will be about the middle of January. The legislature is democratic on joint ballot, and the calculation of the Blackburn men is that their favorite will be promptly nominated and elected. They will appreciate it, therefore, if Mr. Bryan will arrange to make them a visit at that time and assist in the celebration of the triumph. But Mr. Blackburn's success is not absolutely certain, and Mr. Bryan's experience in the Goebel campaign may make him cautious about throwing himself second time into the blue grass breach, From Kentucky Mr. Bryan is expected to nove eastward, taking in New Jersey, New York and New England, and to illuminate his path with addresses about silver and imperialism. Precisely what it is that gives hope of results from such a trip at this time is far from clear. The idea that silver has gained anything in the east by the declaration of Richard Croker in Mr. Bryan's favor is the merest moonshine. No-body need be deceived by that, and least of all Mr. Bryan. That play is for Tammany' benefit in the democratic national convention, and not for Mr. Bryan's benefit at th poils. Another race on the money question will probably witness a contest be-tween New York and Pennsylvania as to which shall roll up the larger majority for

But Mr. Bryan likes to travel, his presence is welcome even to his opponents, and pprove of this war as a necessary sequel of the campaign with Spain. They see the of the new year, so much the better will it be for the general entertainment of the

> Andrew Carnegie does not spend much of is energy lecturing people about what they ought to do. He gives them libraries and leaves them to read up and think it out for themselves.

> The employers who are raising the scale of wages seem to be conspiring to make this a cold hard winter for the social agi-

Oom Paul looks a little like Santa Claus, out the Britons know him for a vastly different sort of person.

The holiday battle will soon be over and he girl behind the bargain counter can get a little needed rest.

The trial of Roland Molineux may cost is much as \$250,000. Long words come high.

The Victoria Cross.

None of the critics who have of late been inding fau't with the British military system, as exposed to such comments in the Boer campaign, have had occasion to question the courage or the fortitude of the English soldier, collectively or individually. The reverses which have befallen the British armies have resulted from general conditions, the imprudence of commanders, failure to provide proper communications, hazardous strategy, or no strategy at all, heavy handicaps of position and insufficient forces to combat a clever foe fighting behind intrenchments. The campaign has produced many notable instances of individual gallantry on the part of the British troops, and doubtless the yield of Victoria crosses nce the eleomargarine laws would not when the final reckening is made will be exceptionally large. Indeed, it may be surmised that this very Victoria cross represents a flaw in the British military system which may in part account for some of the troubles the English commanders have experienced. It is a bid for personal courage, It is given to all members of the British naval or military services who have performed, in the presence of the enemy, some signal act of valor or devotion to their country. This includes non-military persons who serve as volunteers. The decora-tion was devised by Queen Victoria at the end of the Crimean war in 1856, and in the general distribution which took place the next year for conspicuous services in that war sixty-two persons were thus honored in the case of non-commissioned officers and men the cross represents something more than a mere medal, for it is accompanied by a pension of \$50 a year, with \$25 more for each additional act of valor, for which a bar of ribbon is added to the device.

The "V. C." is eagerly sought by all ranks. One of the surest means of winning it is for a soldier to save the life of an-other under fire. Hand-to-hand conflicts are, of course, comparatively rare nowa-days in wars marked by the use of the long-distance rifle and heavy artillery. Nevertheless the movements of opposing armies of large size and working out intrihim because he is not a member of a union. cate problems in strategy often bring indi-what with one difficulty and another, and viduals close to opportunities for distin-

chance to take the lead and to breast all dangers. It has been suggested recently that while the cross is an admirable in centive to soldiers to display great personal gallantry, it sets a false premium upon military valor. There is noticeable in some of the campaigns in which British armie have participated in late years a tendency among the men to take desperate chances for apparently insignificant purposes. While it may be magnificent to see men go to their death in foriorn hopes, or in an effort to save the lives of comrades, or to protect the colors, it does not always comport with the general plan of battle and may precipitate engagements which ma-terially tura the tide of fortune. The Boer is spurred on by no hope of wearing the bauble of honor on his breast. Yet it is not to be doubted he is just as valorous and as heroic when occasion offers as it is desirable he should be. The larger stake should never be forgotten in the quest of the smaller. It is being suggested more and more pointedly in these days of the development of the art of war that the Victoria Cross has come to be too much of an institution to serve its best purposes. Other means of pwarding and honoring brave soldiers might be devised to replace it without detracting in the least from the incentives which war and its glories offer to the individual soldier.

It is a common saying that republics are ungrateful; but there are many beneficiaries who do not set a republic very good examples in this respect.

England and Russia both hope to have some nice oriental bric-a-brac on their Christmas trees before another year has

It is hinted that anything more exciting than a contest for the vice presidency would be altogether too much for Philadelphia's

It is assumed that a number of statesmen are utilizing the holiday vacation in accumulating material with which to be bril-

Aguinaldo evidently means to include a mileage account in the claims he hopes file against this government.

SHOOTING STARS.

"Are you going to give up any of you

old habits?"
"Yes," answered the man, with a defiant air; "one. I'm going to give up this old, old habit of swearing off every New Year

"Some folks," said Uncle Eben, "makes a fuss about hearin' de smaht sayin's o' chillen told by deir parents. But I dunno I specks I druther hear 'em dan de slang talk dese growed folks thinks is so funny.

The Horse.

They told me I was out of date. My hopes no more to earth are dashed. On me the horseless wagons wait To be hauled home when they get

Retribution.

smashed.'

"Did you have a merry Christmas?"
"Not very," answered Willie Wishington. "What was the trouble?"

"I talked too much. I always took a delight in these sneering pleasantries about conventional Christmas gifts. The result was that I didn't get a pair of gloves, nor a box of cigars, nor even a single necktie.

A Color Scheme.

"Do you mean to tell me she let the child sit there at the table with egg and cranberry sauce smeared on its face!" said one oman in horror-stricken tones.

"Yes," replied the other. "But it wash" indifference. She said she hadn't the hear to wash the baby's face-it looked so arti-

Between Holidays.

'Nuther Christmas com'n'. 'Twon't be very long. If you off 'em with a song, We've been merrymakin'; Now le's all prepare Fur another wakin'

To joy that's in the air 'Nuther Christmas comin'

Twelve months ain't so much. No time to be grum in. Better keep in touch With the glorious season That brings peace an' cheer. You k'n be with reason Merry all the year.

Southern Expansionists.

From the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

The cotton growers and cotion manufacturers of the south, the industrial leaders of that section, are among the most earnest advocates of American expansion. They realize that trade follows the flag. A leading cotton manufacturer of the south is quoted as saying "that if we are to hold the Chinese market there are not enough mills in the south, but that if we are to lose it there are already too many." The promise held out of vastly increasing our cotton experts to China through retention of the Philippine Islands has moved many influential commercial bodies of the south to declare in favor of expansion. The arguments are weighty and bound to have an effect. The southern newspapers already reflect the sentiment, and an "anti" platform is likely to get little support from any democrats of that section. the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

A Prosperous and Merry Christmas.

From the New York Mail and Express. From the New York Mail and Express.

This is, in some respects, the merriest Christmas the American workingman has known in many years. Wages are higher than they have been since 1893; more industries are in operation, more men are employed and there is a wider diffusion of the comforts of life. American prosperity is at high tide; the horizon glows with the promise of still larger returns for the man who toils and the land is blessed with health and peace. To the wage-earners of America, the builders of her greatness and the defenders of her honor—A Merry Christmas!

Investment and Speculation.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

The subsidence of the "panic" in New York and the restoration of natural conditions in Wall street show that the episode was, to quote the language of a recognized authority, merely a "gamblers' flurry." It was but an incident of the era of wild speculation that comes every once in a while during unusually good times, when men have plenty of money and feel that they can afford to take the chance of hazardous speculations. That a few of the weaker ones got "squeezed" was natural, and that a flurry should follow was inevitable, just as it was inevitable that things should return to their former status when the flurry was over." Investments are safe. Speculation never can be absolutely so. From the St. Paul Dispatch.

Better Wages for Labor.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch. From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

The pleasant story of increased wages is repeated in the announcement by the Carnegie Steel Company of its wage scale for the coming year. Common labor is advanced to \$1.50 per day, and other day labor in proportion. This is the second gain this year for the thousands of men employed in the vast chain of industrial establishments operated by this company around the city. Such reports are gratifying in their contrast to the dismal iteration of reduced wages and enforced suspensions with which we were all too familiar a few years ago. The contrast should strengthen the tendency to stick to the safe courses that will avoid extravagances and inflation and make the prosperity stable and permanent.

Always Ready to Do Harm.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The Atkinsonian crowd are just as ready to help Aguinaldo now that he is merely a guerrilla as they were when he had an



The Clearance Sale Starts omorrow.

All those fine FLANNEL WAISTS, SKIRTS and COATS are marked for instant outgoing now. The simple announcement of such a fact is sufficient with people who know our ways to tell the whole story of bargain prices—of the most recklessly reduced kinds. FLANNEL WAISTS.

Those handsome \$1.50 Braided Flannel Waists, all colors and sizes, go for..... 99c.

Those extra value \$2 and \$2.25 Flannel Waists, all colors, tucked and corded, go for

\$1.49 SKIRTS REDUCED.

Black Sateen Petticoats, with wide flounce. \$1 kind. Re-

Petticoats-an assorted lotflounted, ruffled and corded. Silk Petticoats, flounced and

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different effects, plaids and checks. \$5 and \$7 ones. Reduced to.....\$2,98 ENTIRE COAT STOCK REDUCED.

\$10 and \$12 Coats.....\$7.50 \$15 Coats.....\$10.00 \$17.50 and \$20 Coats...\$12.00

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24 bottles only \$1.25.

DD to the mirth and Agood cheer of the Xmas season by ordering a

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FOR NEW YEAR'S We are displaying a number of beautiful articles which are indispensable for dispensing the "hospitalities of the beard" on New Year's Day Candenbras, Carving Sets, Meat, Vegetable and Bon Bon Dishes Punch and Saied Bowls, Knives, Forks and Spoons, etc.—in various new patterns—at wonderfully low prices. New Year's GIFTS, appropriate to the occasion, are here in great variety.

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Things to Eat."

efreshments for
New Year's day should
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dainty, fresh and palatable Wafers—a dozen different kinds. MANY KINDS OF LUNCH DELICACIES,

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It makes just such Rolls, Cakes, etc., as you will be proud to serve-that all your guests will praise for their deliciousness. Not only IN-SIST on having "Cream Blend," but see that your grocer sends it.

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Bad and are still busy-solling Pecket Books, Dress Suit Cases, Traveling Bags, etc. If you received a gift for Xmas from an unexpected quarter you still have time to return the favor before New Year's. Hundreds of appropriate Leather

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